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nable to increase or diminish the specific gravity of the preservative, the proportion of glycerine may be changed. Used as above, or modified as indicated, he thinks it also a trustworthy medium for mounting Infusoria and the softer animal tissues.—*Jour. of the Roy. Micros. Soc., Feb., 1884.*

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### SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The thirty-third meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Philadelphia, Penna., Sept. 4-10, 1884.

The British Association has invited the members of the American Association to join in the meeting at Montreal, and the American Association and the local committee of Philadelphia have invited the members of the British Association, with their near relatives who may be with them, to take part in the Philadelphia meeting.

A series of receptions will be offered the association and its guests, including one at the Academy of Music after the president's address; a reception at the Academy of the Fine Arts; a garden party at Haverford College, and a microscopical exhibition at the Academy of Natural Sciences. The botanical section of the Academy of Natural Sciences will organize botanical excursions, and will also hold a special meeting at the Academy for Botanists. There will be visits to the International Electrical Exhibition, the Zoological Gardens, Fairmount Park, Independence Hall and other places of interest, and the various institutions in the city will welcome the association to their halls. Several excursions will be offered to take place during the session, to the sea-shore, the coal regions and other points of interest, and possibly limited excursions to more distant points after the meeting.

The meeting will be called to order, in general session, at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning, Sept. 4th, in the Academy of Music, by President C. A. Young, of Princeton, who will resign the chair to the president-elect, Professor J. P. Lesley, of Philadelphia. After the adjournment of the general session, the sections will organize in their respective halls. General sessions and sections will be held on Friday. The vice-presidents of the sections will probably give their addresses during the day, and in the evening President Young will deliver his address at the Academy of Music, after which there will be a reception tendered to the members of the association, and their invited guests, by the local committee and citizens of Philadelphia. Saturday will probably be given up to excursions and receptions. The general programme for the rest of the meeting will be similar to that at previous meetings.

The headquarters of the association will be at the Academy of

Music, which is on Broad street, near the station of the Pennsylvania railroad and several large hotels. The sections will be amply accommodated in other halls in the immediate vicinity.

The offices of the permanent secretary and local committee, the association post-office, etc., will be at the Academy of Music after Sept. 1st; previous to that they will be at the Academy of Natural Sciences. The permanent secretary will establish his office in Philadelphia on August 22.

All matters relating to membership, the presentation of papers and business to come before the association, will be attended to by the *permanent secretary* at his office in *Salem, Mass., up to August 20*. After this date and until the meeting has adjourned, the address of the permanent secretary will be HOTEL LAFAYTTE, Philadelphia, Pa.

— Prizes given by the French Academy.—The “Prix Francœur” for discoveries in real or applied mathematics, was unanimously awarded to M. Emile Barbier, the laureate of 1882.

The prize of 6000 francs for studies calculated to increase the efficiency of the navy, was divided between M. Taurines, to whom 3000 francs was allotted for his forthcoming work entitled “Steam engines: a historical and critical account of the dynamometric results of the working of marine engines,” M. Germain, to whom 2000 francs was given for his “Theoretical and practical treatise upon Hydrography,” and M. A. de Magnac, who received 1000 francs for a work entitled “New Astronomical Navigation,” published in 1877, and the result of the joint labor of M. de Magnac and the deceased M. Yvon de Villarceau.

The “Prix Poncelet” was given to M. G. H. Halphen; the Montyon prize was parted between M. Leon Francq for perfecting Lamm's steam-engine, and M. L. Renouf for a mathematical instrument designed to simplify the taking of levels at sea; and the Plumey prize was given to the lieutenant of the *Jacquemier* for the invention of the “cinemometer,” which effects transmission of movement by means of ratchet-wheels and levers.

In astronomy the “Prix Lalande” was awarded to MM. Bonquet de la Gyre, de Bernardieres, Courcelle-Senevil, Fleuriais, Hatt, Perrotin, Bassot, Bigourdain and Callandreau, the members of the French expedition to observe the transit of Venus in 1882; while the “Prix Valz” was given to M. Stephan, the director of the Marseilles observatory, a savant whose discovery of seven hundred nebulae does honor to French astronomy.

The “Prix Lacaze” (physics) was awarded to M. Henri Becquerel, engineer of roads and bridges, for the total of his works upon experimental physics.

The “Prix Montyon” (statistics) was allotted to the deceased M. Ch. Nicholas, author of the important work, “The Budgets of France since the commencement of the XIX century.” This

work is complete, of exceptional merit, and indispensable to political economists, statesmen and financiers.

In chemistry the Jecker prize was given to M. Etard for his numerous and important discoveries in organic chemistry, among which may be cited his experiments upon the action of chloro-chromic acid on organic substances, his researches on strychnine, on the ptomaines and on nicotine.

The "Prix Lacaze" was awarded to M. L. Cailletet for his investigations into the liquefaction of gases. He was the first to show the possibility of liquefying what are called the permanent gases, and science owes also to him a simple apparatus with which these experiments can be carried on without danger. *To be continued.*

— The French Society for the Advancement of Science, which will meet at Blois in September (4-11), has before it the duty of distributing a sum of about £800, being the first five years' accumulation of the legacy left to it in 1878, by M. Girard, to enable it to give rewards once in every five years to the person or persons who have most contributed to advance science upon the question of the antiquity of man with regard to geological formations.

— The number of applications for tickets for the British Association meeting this year is 772, and the council have resolved not to receive any more prior to the meeting at Montreal, when members and associates will be elected as usual.

— The Council of the British Association have resolved to receive the standing committee and fellows of the American Association on the footing of honorary members at the Montreal meeting.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, May 3.—Communications were made by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, U.S.A., on the occurrence of a pair of free ribs on the occipital bone of the large-mouthed black bass, *Micropterus salmoides*; by Mr. N. P. Scudder, observations upon the muskrat, *Fiber zibethicus*; and by Dr. Theodore Gill on the system of the Squali.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY.—The annual meeting was held on May 7, 1884. Annual reports were made by the curator, secretary and treasurer, followed by the election of officers for 1884-5, and of candidates for membership. The third award of the grand Walker prize was announced, and the committee on the annual Walker prize made its report, awarding it to Dr. Tuttle for his essay on the anatomy and embryology of *Lunatia heros*. Mr. F. W. Putnam spoke of some interesting recent discoveries relating to the antiquity of man in America, in